

Banks Township Regular Board Meeting

Banks Township Hall

Monday May 18, 2026

Draft

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Supervisor Busman.

Members present: Supervisor Alex Busman, Clerk Julie Chellis, Treasurer Katy Postmus, Trustee Marv Rubingh, Trustee Richard Friske. **Also present:** Julie Waterman, Tina Sundelius, Lyndsey Ecles, Jarris Rubingh.

Supervisor Busman led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

1. **Amend and approve the agenda: Motion** by Katy Postmus to add DTE Energy, lights, padded chairs, and board attendance conflict to the agenda, support Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. Motion** by Julie Chellis to amend and approve the agenda, support Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
2. **Public Comment 6:04pm- 6:06pm:**
 - a) **Lyndsey Ecles:** Lyndsey Ecles from the Antrim County Parks spoke about the Antrim Creek Natural Area Schoolhouse project. They have received a grant for \$50,000 and are applying for more; the total cost of the project is \$250,000. The schoolhouse project will be completed in two phases: exterior and interior. The current RFP is looking for contractors to begin work on the outside. Contact the Antrim County Parks Department if you are interested in submitting a bid, at 231-533-8363.
3. **Approval of 04-20-2026 regular meeting:** Minutes presented. **Motion** by Marv Rubingh to approve the minutes as corrected, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
 - a) **Section 9, a:** Remove “motion carried” add “motion failed”
 - b) **Section 15:** Remove “creating a Lake Shore Zone, Little Torch, St Clair, Wilison and Lake Michigan” add “creating a Lake Shore zone for the waterfront residential communities along our lakefronts, including, but not limited to, Ellsworth Lake, St Clair Lake, Wilison Lake, Lake Michigan and Little Torch Lake”
4. **Standing Reports:** Copies given to each board member.
5. **County Commissioner Report:** Presented by Jarris Rubingh. Hemlock trees and surrounding trees are being treated. Community Mental Health is closing the Bergmann Center due to the state regulating hourly wages. The Sheriff’s Department is applying for a grant to fund a deputy car and equipment for mental health calls. Reinstatement of the work release program is being discussed. The Parks Department does not have extra funds to put into the schoolhouse; they currently have \$75,000 to spend on Phase 1.
6. **Treasurer’s Report – Financial Reports & Approve/Pay Bills:** Katy Postmus presented the monthly fund report for credit, debits, and balances. Payment for DTE will now be paid when received, due to timing conflict with board meeting dates.
 - a) Income: **\$72,265.55**
 - b) Bills: **\$38,428.50**
 - c) Payroll: **\$13,730.19**

Account Balances before bill payment:

General Fund Balance: **\$439,612.34**

 - a) Fire Fund Balance: **\$280,819.55**
 - b) Liquor Fund: **\$1,403.62**
 - c) Roads Fund: **\$276,512.81**
 - d) Vehicle Fund: **\$2,962.19**

Grand Total of all funds: \$1,001,310.51

Breakdown of accounts where funds are held:

 - a) Charlevoix State Bank Checking Account: **\$534,733.53**
 - b) Charlevoix State Bank Certificate of Deposit: **\$253,218.85**

c) Michigan CLASS Account: **\$213,358.13**

Motion by Katy Postmus to pay the bills, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes**

7. **Ambulance Authority Report:** Alex Busman thanked residents for passing the millage, which will appear on the winter tax bill.

8. **Township Cleanup:** Alex Busman provided an update, noting that 171 residents participated.

OLD BUSINESS

9. Property Review:

- a) **Soil Sampling at Ellsworth Fire Hall:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to hire Otwell Mawby for \$6,468.00 to test the soil per the quote provided, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. Roll call vote: Marv: no, Richard: yes, Katy: yes, Julie: yes, Alex: yes.**
- b) **Ellsworth Firehall Driveway:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to approve the bid for 15 yards of Afton stone to be spread and compacted on the firehall drive for \$2,000, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**
- c) **Ellsworth Cemetery:** Julie Chellis will get a quote to remove the building and the slab under the building at the Ellsworth Cemetery.

10. **2026 Road Projects:** Discussion held on C-48, both village and county portions, and Essex Road. The board is waiting for a quote from the Road Commission for Essex Rd. and C-48. Marv Rubingh is still working with state senators to provide funding for Essex Road repairs. MDOT is fixing US-31 just south of Essex Rd.

11. **Natural Gas to Atwood:** A meeting will be held on May 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Friske Farm Market. The public is invited to attend; DTE will be present to discuss bringing natural gas to Atwood.

NEW BUSINESS

12. **Atwood Cemetery Graves:** Discussion held regarding graves in the Atwood Cemetery that are being driven over repeatedly. The cost is \$4,850 to disinter and move two bodies (\$2,000 for the vault company, \$2,400 for Mortensen's, \$200 to move the headstones, and \$250 for permits). The family is asking the township to cover half the cost. **Motion** by Katy Postmus to pay the full amount, \$4,850 to disinter and move the bodies, support by Julie Chellis. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

13. **Pig Roast Contribution:** **Motion** by Katy Postmus to contribute \$3,000 to Pig Roast, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes**

14. **Fireworks Contribution:** **Motion** by Alex Busman to contribute \$2,500 to Ellsworth Fireworks, support by Richard Friske. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

15. **Ellsworth Recreation Contribution:** **Motion** by Julie Chellis to contribute \$3,500 to Ellsworth Recreation, support by Katy Postmus. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

16. **Padded Chairs and Lights:** Katy Postmus is going to obtain a quote for padded folding chairs and light filters.

17. **Conflict of interest:** Discussed board members attending other meetings and possible conflict of interest. Also, talked about difference between discussing issues and emailing issues.

18. Board Comment:

- a) **Marv Rubingh:** Requesting an update on QVF and voter challenges.
- b) **Julie Chellis:** Provided an update on voter status regarding the County Clerk's postcards.

19. Public Comment 8:01pm - 8:10pm

- a) **Jarris Rubingh:** Conflict of interest and attending public meetings.
- b) **Julie Waterman:** Undue influence from board members toward other boards.

Motion by Richard Friske to adjourn the meeting, support by Alex Busman. **Motion Carried. All yes.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Julie Chellis, Banks Township Clerk